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October 8, 2000

Dear Secretary Shalala:

As a concerned <sup>LA</sup> ~~senior~~ citizen, it makes no sense to me that, after more than seven years of inaction, the FDA is now rushing to put forth a new proposal changing the way seniors like me access hearing aids.

Please stop the FDA from acting on this proposed hearing aid rule. I'm sure you, like me, don't want to see any additional barriers erected to hearing health care in this country. Only 20% of those who could benefit from hearing aids actually use them, despite the known benefits of hearing aids as recently confirmed by the AARP.

Please let me know what you have done to stop the proposed hearing aid rule from being issued by the FDA in the twilight of the current Administration. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



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Calvin Kraemer  
P.O. Box 4256  
Houma, LA 70361



Honorable Donna E. Shalala  
Secretary of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 615F  
Washington, D. C. 20201

